

Dear Chris:

As we indicated in our previous letter to you, we estimate that approximately 8,000 e-mails are impacted by your public records request. To our knowledge, the Mississippi Department of Finance & Administration has never received a request to produce the entire e-mail system of a Governor's office or, for that matter, any other state executive branch agency, so the task of compiling these e-mails will difficult. It will require creation of an electronic system that does not exist in state government today, as well as a significant amount of time of DFA personnel and expertise that DFA does not possess internally. DFA will require the assistance of a consultant to properly respond.

Each of the e-mails will have to be reviewed to determine whether the e-mails are nonresponsive, exempt or privileged communications, or if their disclosure would require notice to third parties. The Governor's office has received permission from the Attorney General to retain outside counsel to perform this task. Our outside counsel has estimated that it will take approximately 50 hours to review the 8,000 e-mails. This review effort will also require significant time of Governor's office staff.

We have estimated the cost of compiling and reviewing the e-mails impacted by your request as follows:

- (1) DFA IT Personnel: 20 hours x \$39.30 (actual hourly cost of DFA IT employee) = \$786.00
- (2) Computer consultant: 1.5 days plus travel cost = \$5,400.00 (actual quote)
- (3) Review by outside counsel: 50 hours x \$150 (actual hourly rate of retained counsel) = \$7,500.00
- (4) Review by Governor's office staff: 16 hours x \$30.28 (actual hourly cost of Governor's office press secretary) = \$484.48

If you would like for us to respond to your request, please submit a check payable to the Department of Finance & Administration in the amount of \$14,170.48. If the actual cost is less than we have estimated, we will, of course, refund the difference. However, if the actual cost is more than we have estimated, we will require payment in full of any additional cost prior to providing the responsive e-mails.

As you requested, I have attached the most current list of the Governor's office staff.

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